of the ceasefire line and not to report on developments in the Valley.

Visit of Indian Delegation to Pakistan

2205. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian delegation had visited Islamabad recently; and

(b) if so, what is the purpose of the visit stating the issues discussed during the talks and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Indian delegation participated in the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held at Islamabad from 22nd to 24th November, 1994. The principal issues discussed at SOM included a review of the decisions of the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Functional Co-operation and the style and format of the next CHOGM. India's position on the need to maintain a balanced approach in determining priorities for Commonwealth action in terms of the promotion of fundamental political values of the Commonwealth and co-operation for socio-economic development was endorsed at the Meeting. We had conveyed in advance to Pakistan through the diplomatic channels that in the meeting of the SOM, Foreign Secretary, as leader of the Indian delegation, would be available for any discussions, formally or informally, on the bilateral issues. Pakistan, however, has been raising conditions for any talks and did not avail itself of the opportunity to resume the bilateral dialogue.

Indo-Sri Lanka Relations

2206. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government envisage any change in the new Srilankan Government's policy towards India; and

(b) if so, in what sphere and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) India-Sri Lanka relations have traditionally been close and friendly. The new Sri Lanka Government has stated its interest in sound and cordial relations with India. Government of India fully reciprocate these sentiments.

भारत में सीमा-पार क्षेत्र से आतंकवाद फैलाने में पाकिस्तान का हाथ

2207. **श्री दिग्विजय सिंह** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र में कश्मीर पर प्रस्ताव लाने में विफल रहने पर पाकिस्तान भारत को लगातार परेशानी में डालने के लिए अपनी गतिविधियां जारी रखे हुए है तथा जम्मू और कश्मीर सहित भारत के अन्य राज्यों में अशांति फैलाने की उसकी गतिविधिया बदस्तूर जारी हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो आतंकवाद, विदेशी राजनयिकों के अपहरण की घटनाओं और अन्य बहुत-सी घटनाओं में पाकिस्तान का स्पष्ट हाथ होने का प्रमाण मिलने के बावजूद सरकार द्वारा पाकिस्तान के प्रति नरम रवैया अपनाए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) और (ख) भारत के विरुद्ध तोड़फोड़ और आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान की ओर से निरंतर समर्थन मिलना एक तथ्य है और गंभीर चिंता का मामला है पाकिस्तान का यह आचरण न तो अच्छे पड़ोसी के से संबंधों के अनुकूल है और न ही इस क्षेत्र की शांति और स्थायित्व के लिए ।

सरकार ने पाकिस्तान से कई अवसरों पर पहले सभी स्तरों पर पुरजोर तरीके से यह बात कही है कि वह विध्वंसक कार्रवाईयो और आतंकवाद को समर्थन देना बंद कर दे । सरकार ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय को भी इस बात से अवगत कराया है कि आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान की ओर से समर्थन मिलने में क्या खतरे निहित हैं । आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान की ओर से प्राप्त होने वाले समर्थन का प्रतिकार करने के लिए तथा राष्ट्र की एकता एवं अखडता की सुरक्षा के लिए सभी आवश्यक उपाय करने के लिए सरकार कृतसंकल्प है ।

बीजा-प्रतिबन्ध का समाप्त किया जाना

2208. **श्री आस मोहम्मद :**
श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला :

क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार देश मे पर्यटन उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से कतिपय देशों के मामले में लगाये गए बीजा-प्रतिबंध को समाप्त करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं, इस संबंध में किन-किन देशों के मामले में यह प्रतिबंध हटाया जायेगा और सरकार ने इस दिशा में क्या कदम उठाए हैं ;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध मे विदेशी मुद्रा के संभावित अर्जन के बारे में कोई आंकलन किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हा, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

Indian Territory under Foreign Control

2209. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total area of land India had at the time of attaining independence in the year 1947 and what is its total area of land at present;

(b) what are the reasons for the shrinkage in the area of land and what are the names of the countries which have been occupying the land; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to get back the Indian land which is being occupied by other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Information on the total land area of India at the time of attaining independence in 1947 is being collected from the Surveyor General of India and will be laid on the Table of the House. The total area of India presently is 32,87,263 Sq. Km.

(b) The area in Jammu & Kashmir under the illegal occupation of China is approximately 38,000 Sq. Km. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'boundary agreement, of 1963, Pakistan has illegally ceded approximately 5.180 Sq. Km. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

The area of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan is approximately 78,000 Sq. Km.

(c) (i) India and China are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question and this task has been entrusted to the India-China Joint Working Group.

(ii) Government are committed to the Simla Agreement under which all differences with Pakistan are to be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations.

Concession to Haj Pilgrims

2210. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop sea voyage to Saudi Arabia for Haj pilgrims ; if so the reasons thereof ;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce air service for Haj pilgrimage ;

(c) what is the difference between the air fare and sea fare ;

(d) whether Government have any plan to grant concession on air tickets for Haj pilgrims ; if so, the percentage of concession ;

(e) whether Government will consider granting identical air-concession to pilgrims going to Jerusalem, Rome or other holy places ;

(f) whether such concession will be granted on inland flights ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government has decided that all the pilgrims will be carried by air beginning from Haj 1995. The reasons for discontinuation of ship are as follows :

1. The facility for travel by ship was available only to a relatively small number of pilgrims as compared to the total number of Indian pilgrims proceeding for Haj.

2. It was difficult to adhere to the time-frames prescribed by the Saudi authorities for arrival and departure of pilgrims to and from Saudi Arabia in the case of sea pilgrims.

3. Saudi authorities encourage the performance of the Haj by air. They have created infrastructural facilities for handling all the pilgrims coming by air.

4. Pilgrims going by ship had to stay for 65 days in Saudi Arabia as compared to 45 days for pilgrims by air. In view of high cost of living in Saudi Arabia, many pilgrims faced problems of running short of funds.

5. Till 1994, India was one of the four countries in the world which sent its pilgrims by sea also. For Haj 1995, only two neighbouring countries i.e. Egypt and Sudan will ferry their pilgrims across the sea.

6. The amount of subsidy, direct or indirect, for sea travel for Haj 1994 was Rs. 32000 as compared to Rs. 5,000 per pilgrim by air. Government considers that expenditure on Haj could better be used to ameliorate the conditions of pilgrimage for all pilgrims.